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FRIDAY
JUNE 18, 1954

R

Got up at 6:30 and took the 8:00 o'cl . train for Paris. Found there was no dining car and made up for the lack of breakfast by smoking.

We wrote a telegram on the way in these terms:

"SENT: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. PRIORITY. COLED

"RPTD INFO: AMEMBASSY LONDON. EYES ONLY ALDRICH.
AMCOG BONN. EYES ONLY CONANT.

"DEPARTMENT LIMIT DISTRIBUTION. ATTENTION SECRETARY.

"LONDON EYES ONLY ALDRICH. BONN EYES ONLY CONANT.

"De Staercke, Rothschild, Tomlinson and myself had dinner with Spaak last night in Brussels.

"Spaak reserved his greatest emphasis for two observations.

"A. He is gravely concerned over prevalent rumors, mostly French inspired, that the U.K. especially, but also the U.S., are now seeking alternatives to EDC Treaty as drafted. If French Govt makes any suggestion for renegotiation before it has voted on present text, he will refuse to enter into such negotiations, and thinks he can answer for same attitude by other Benelux countries. Spaak hopes U.S. and U.K. at Washington meeting will take strong stand against consideration any alternatives or modifications whatever unless and until French Parliament has previously voted against present text. He felt it would be important to curb current intrigues EDC opponents by having Eisenhower-Churchill communiqué evidence U.S.-U.K. solidarity this regard. Spaak said that if France rejects EDC Treaty and proposes new negotiations, Benelux countries and Federal Republic should reply that they will consider only one ~~alternative and that is Federal~~ Republic with full membership in NATO without discrimination.

"B. Spaak says newspaper comment in France, Belgium, ~~and Holland~~ shows that the mere notice of U.S.-U.K. bilateral meeting has had psychological consequences

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of a most useful and profound nature on French and other continental opinion in indicating possibility that Western policy will not necessarily continue to be enfeebled or suspended because of the absence of political stability in France. Spaak hopes U.S. and U.K. will not take any action calculated to diminish existing French uneasiness over U.S.-U.K. meeting in which there is no French participation. He expressed the further hope that no indication be given to the French in the near future that they would be readmitted to a three-power relationship unless their Govt and Parliament had previously demonstrated ability to assume their responsibilities. He says feeling on this subject in Holland and Belgium is vehement, and there would be bitter disappointment if U.S. were to be apologetic to French for holding meeting without them or were to promise later high level bilateral conversations with them similar to U.S.-U.K. talks.

"Spaak made following additional points:

"1. Until French Govt is constituted no use calling meeting of Benelux countries and FedRep under Article 132 with U.S. and U.K. invited as observers. Actions to be taken such meeting cannot be determined until we know composition such Govt and its European policy. Therefore improbable his opinion Secretary would be invited to attend before middle July.

"2. Meanwhile he hopes protocols procedure will be agreed. He will press for meeting of foreign ministers to sign protocols as soon as France has formed Govt. He would use this occasion to spur French on to completion Saar accord. If appropriate/at that time to obtain firm pledge to debate EDC before summer vacation of French Assembly, other countries would warn French Govt of their plans to hold meeting without them under Article 132.

"3. Spaak will today contact Beyen, Bech and Hallstein to advise them of his plans. Spaak will take lead in conducting conversations with other countries

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and will keep me currently informed. Subject of these conversations should not come to attention of French officials until Benelux countries and FedRep are prepared to inform them.

"4. At Geneva Spaak sounded out Eden on Article 132 meeting and found him sympathetic and interested but made no attempt to obtain British commitment. He says he has introduced idea into Eden's consciousness, where it should be given ample time to reach maturity. Therefore he suggests next discussion on this subject be in Washington between President, Secretary, Churchill and Eden.

"5. He thinks secrecy essential to ultimate success any such scheme designed influence favorable French action EDC. Under no circumstances should reports of possible meeting under Article 132 leak to press during U.S. and U.K. talks.

"6. Regarding Presidential letter he previously proposed, he now thinks it inopportune to consider it at this time since its contents should be framed in light of situation as it later develops. He is emphatic letter should not be directed [redacted] to implementation of Contractual Agreements since this should not be used as threat unless intermediate attemp[illegible]e ratification have failed, when it will cease to be merely a threat [illegible]om occupation status will be a burning issue with Germans.

"Suggest Dept decide under circumst[illegible]r Aldrich should discuss subject with Eden before latter's departure [illegible]nington. In such event, participants in conversation should be restricted to Aldrich and Eden, especially in view reputed Foreign Office activities in considering plans alternative to EDC.

"Above conversation took place before investiture of Mendès-France. De Staercke is returning to Paris from Brussels Monday. I have asked him to obtain Spaak's further views after he has read Mendès-France's investiture speech. BRUCE."

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Arrived in Paris about 12:15 [redacted] to be confronted with the news that Mendès-France had gained investiture with a surplus of about four votes over the absolute majority. He announced during a speech last night his intention to have opponents and adherents of EDC consult together and try to work out a compromise before the summer recess of Parliament. This is not good.

I returned home just in time to greet Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lumley and Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Butterwick, who came over on the night ferry from London. We had a delightful lunch. They are both famous silver collectors and have at different times been the official silver valuers at Sotheby. Their wives are charming.

Went to the office and worked on cables. Also called on Doug Dillon to talk to him about Mendès-France and my conversations in Brussels.

We went to Versailles to spend the night, taking little David with us.

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